

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
January 25, 2023
7:00 PM**

Present:

H. Charles Wilson III, Chairman
Richard Marino, Vice Chairman
Laura Smith, Secretary
Kristin Warner, Treasurer
Joyce F. Snyder, Asst. Treasurer/Asst. Secretary

Staff:

David G. Kraynik, Township Manager
Robert J. Iannozzi, Jr., Esq., Township Solicitor
Mary Stover, Township Engineer
Niral Modi, IT Staff
Timothy Troxel, Chief of Police

Present Remotely:

Colleen Ehrle, Director of Administration

Absent:

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards & Recognition

Recognition of Retirement: Sergeant Gregory Wert

The Board recognized the recent retirement of Sergeant Gregory Wert, who has served the Towamencin Community for over 25 years, starting in December 1997. Chairman Wilson read the commendation before presenting it to Mr. Wert. The Board congratulated Mr. Wert for his impressive career in law enforcement and serving the Towamencin community.

During his tenure, Greg served many roles, including: patrol officer, firearms instructor, field training officer, and a founding TASER instructor. Sergeant Wert consistently demonstrated an aptitude for traffic enforcement, where he was assigned to the department's Highway Safety Unit. Sgt. Wert received extensive training and education in accident reconstruction. Eventually, he became a Federally Certified Motor Carrier Inspector for commercial vehicle enforcement. Sergeant Wert also served as a member of the North Penn Area Tactical Response Team (NPTRT) - an elite group of specially trained officers tasked with handling high-risk/barricade/hostage situations - serving as an Entry Operator, Sniper and Sniper Team Leader. Sergeant Wert also contributed to the Montgomery County Drug Task Force.

Opening Comments

Chairman Wilson made the following announcements:

- The meeting is being held in person at the Township's Meeting Hall and also provided via Zoom for residents unable to attend in person. Public comments submitted by 4:30 pm on the meeting day would be read at the start of the meeting.
- The Board met in Executive Session before the meeting to discuss personnel matters.
- The Township's Planning Commission continues to work with consultant, Simone Collins, on the Connectivity Study. The next Connectivity Study Public Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 9, at 7 pm, in the Meeting Hall. As part of the study, an online survey is available to collect resident feedback and can be accessed from the Township's website.

Public Comments

Resident Joe Silverman shared his research with the Board on more affordable restrooms options (referencing several models with price estimates) at the Township parks.

Chairman Wilson thanked Mr. Silverman noting that the materials would be shared with the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee.

Resident and Government Study Commission (GSC) member Kofi Osei, thanked and complimented each Board member for their contributions and service to the Township.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the January 3, 2023 Reorganization Meeting minutes.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the January 11, 2023 minutes.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Warrant List

Chairman Wilson noted the top costs for the Township as reflected in the January warrant list. The January warrant list was presented for approval. On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the warrant list in the amount of \$2,064,456.43.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Public Works Committee Report

The Public Works Committee meets monthly to review projects and identify deficiencies related to Township infrastructure, properties, and equipment. The Committee met on January 19th. Supervisor Marino provided the Committee's report with the following topics reviewed:

- Kriebel Road/Orchard Lane/Eagle Way/Valley View Ways Storm Sewer Improvements
- Weikel Road Drainage /Pedestrian Walkway Update
- Central Drive Storm Sewer Repair Project
- Bocci Courts Update
- 2022 ADA Ramp Replacement Project
- Crosswalk at Allentown Road/Walton Farm School
- Old Forty Foot/Rittenhouse Road Intersection
- Kerr Road Analysis
- Forty Foot Road Pedestrian Bridge Repairs
- Towamencin Swimming Pool Repairs
- Salt & Equipment Storage Building
- Nash Soccer Field
- Drinnon Park Budgeted Improvements
- Welsh/Orvilla Intersection Project Update
- Allentown Road Culvert Improvements
- Route 309 Connector/Sumneytown Pike Improvements
- Inglewood Traffic Evaluation
- Forty Foot Road/Newbury Way/PSDC Traffic Signal
- Traffic Signal at Allentown Road & Derstine/Fretz Roads
- GPR Survey Reports for Tennis-Lukens & Kulpsville Mennonite Cemeteries
- Partnership TMA – National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Plan
- Grant Opportunities

Finance Committee Report

The Township Finance Committee meets monthly throughout the year to monitor economic indicators and the pulse of the Township's revenues and expenditures. They also address various requests and concerns that may arise. The Committee met on January 18th and will provide a report this evening. The discussion items included:

- Township 2022 December YTD Financial Summary
- Update on TTIA Dissolution Process
- 2023 Unencumbered Reserve
- Activity Accounting feature to improve monitoring of finances for multi-year Projects
- OPEB Trust Research Process and Cost
- StandGuard (Pool Operator) Contract
- Univest Daily ACH Increase Limit – The Township's daily ACH limit is \$150,000. The Committee recommends raising the limit to \$250,000 to process ACH batches more efficiently in a single day over spreading out processing to avoid exceeding the limit.

On a motion Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board authorized increasing the daily ACH limit to \$250,000.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Kriebel Road Trail Construction Inspection Extension Request & Project Update

Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., the contractor assigned to inspecting the Kriebel Road Trail Project, requested a 4-month time extension to June 30, 2023, with the inspection agreement due to expire on February 28, 2023. There are some remaining project construction and closeout activities that still need to be completed. The extra time requested will account for inspection coverage to complete asphalt paving of the trail, final stabilization and NPDES closeout activities, as well as, part time work for close out documents, final approvals by various Department Units and inspections made confirming all physical work is complete.

Joe Carlin, of Gilmore Associates, noted that the public is already using the trail despite its construction being incomplete. He would look into having construction fencing added to protect the public. He would be meeting with Joe Meehan, Chair of the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee, to investigate possible run-off issues around the site. He added the Kriebel Road Trail II Project bid would open in a few days with an end date of February 28, 2023.

Supervisor Marino asked if the extension would increase costs for the project. Mr. Kraynik responded it would not.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Smith, approved the inspection extension request.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

PennDOT MTF Grant Extension Request (Forty Foot Road Project)

The Township’s Traffic Engineer has recommended the Township formally request an 18-month extension of the PennDOT MTF Agreement for the Forty Foot Road Widening Project through November 26, 2024. The agreement was fully executed on May 27, 2020 is set to expire on May 26, 2023. The extension request is based on the following. All work associated with the widening project and Highway Occupancy Permit has been completed. However, the completed traffic signal construction at the Newbury Way/site access intersection is outstanding. The signal permit and construction was included in the grant project based on proposed land development by Philadelphia Suburban Development Company (PSDC) that demonstrated meeting the warrants for a new traffic signal. Over the grant period, the proposed PSDC land development, including 226 senior apartments and 55,000 square feet of retail development, has not progressed through the land development approval process as expected. Current traffic conditions do not satisfy the needed traffic signal warrants to justify the construction and activation of the new signal. The remaining signal construction is planned as a Phase 2 of the project.

Traffic Engineer Chad Dixon summarized the extension request, outlining the proposed land development progression schedule.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the PennDOT MTF Grant Extension Request (Forty Foot Road Project).

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Resolution 23-06: Adopt Sewer Penalty Waiver Policy

The Finance Committee drafted a township policy that allows for a one-time waiver of penalties, provided that the account holder has three years of on-time payments and no history of bounced payments. At their December 28, 2022, the Board of Supervisors authorized staff to draft an associated resolution, adopting the policy. Starting with the 2023 sewer rental billing, the Township will grant one (1) waiver of penalty under the following conditions:

- 1) The owner has made timely payments on the account for at least three (3) years.
- 2) The owner has no history of non-sufficient fund (NSF) returned checks on their account.

3) The owner's account does not have any prior waiver of penalties on record.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved Resolution 23-06, Adopt Sewer Penalty Waiver Policy.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Authorization for Solicitor to Amend Sewer Rentals and Charges Ordinance

In conjunction with adopting the noted Sewer Penalty Waiver Policy, an ordinance amendment must be enacted to incorporate the sewer penalty waiver policy into the Township's Code. The amendment to Article V [Sewer Rentals and Charges], Section 127-36 [Time and Method of Payment; Penalties And Interest], Sub-Section (B) will be amended as follows:

If the full amount of such bills shall not be paid within 120 days from the date of billing, 10% of the face amount of the bill shall be added thereto, which together with the face amount of the bill shall become the gross amount thereof. In the event any bill shall remain unpaid as of December 31 of any year, the Township shall proceed to collect all sums due in accordance with law. The Board of Supervisors may adopt a written policy expressly waiving this 10% penalty under limited circumstances as set forth in the approved policy.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board authorized the Solicitor to amend the Sewer Rentals and Charges Ordinance.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle

Director of Administration